MARVEL® COMICS

WHAT IF...

SPIDER-MAN®

HAD KEPT HIS COSMIC POWERS?

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AUTHORITY

SCOTT McDANIEL

THE PORT JERVIS COUNTRYSIDE ON A BREEZY SUMMER MORNING IS A BEAUTIFUL SIGHT...

RROWF

...ESPECIALLY FROM SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET IN THE AIR.

FJD-28R

...I'M GLAD YOU'RE ENJOYING THE RIDE, BUT--UH, THAT'S NOT THE REAL REASON I BROUGHT YOU UP HERE.

WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS...

...LAURA, WILL YOU MARRY ME?

=gasp=

OH, GLENN, IT'S BEAUTIFUL! I--

FWOOSH

YIP

TWO GLOBES IGNITE THE SKY SIMULTANEOUSLY...

,,, BUT ONLY ONE STRIKES AN INTENDED TARGET--

RRR-- WHAT'S HAPPENING? I SUDDENLY HAVE SELF-AWARENESS. I'M CASEY, BUT I'M NO LONGER JUST A DOG. I'M--

--CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

I'VE BEEN ENDOWED WITH AN EXTRADIMENSIONAL ENERGY THAT TRANSFORMS INDIVIDUALS TO AVERT SUDDEN DANGERS!

CAN'T THINK ABOUT IT NOW-- I MUST SAVE MY MASTER--

--BUT NO MAN MAY BE CALLED MASTER OF CAPTAIN UNI-MUTT!

C-CASEY??

YUCK! MY NEW SWEATER!

OH, NO! THE RING-!!

WHAP

WHAP

NOW THAT THE CRISIS IS PAST, I FEEL THE UNI-POWER LEAVING ME,

I BETTER GET A BISCUIT FOR THI--

OOOOOF!

ER, GOOD BOY.

WOOF!

THE SCENE YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED MAY SEEM JOYOUS. NOT SO FOR THAT ASPECT OF THE *ENIGMA FORCE* KNOWN AS THE *UNI-POWER*.

I AM THE *WATCHER*, AND I HAVE OBSERVED THE UNI-POWER SINCE ITS CREATION.

TIME TRAVELERS FROM THE SUBDIMENSIONAL *MICROVERSE* CONFERRED PART OF THE ENIGMA FORCE UPON EX-ASTRONAUT CAPTAIN RAY COFFIN.

THE UNI-POWER HAS SINCE SAVED MANKIND MANY TIMES BY TRANSFORMING UNSUSPECTING INDIVIDUALS INTO CAPTAIN UNIVERSE...

...UNTIL A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT ALTERED THE ENERGY TRANSFER TO THE YOUNG HERO, SPIDER-MAN.

UTILIZING THE POWER *WITHOUT* ITS AWARENESS, SPIDER-MAN DEFEATED A HOST OF POWERFUL FOES...

...WHILE AVOIDING THE ATTEMPTS OF THE MONARCH, DR. DOOM, TO STEAL THAT POWER.

THE CHAMPION ATTAINED FULL AWARENESS WHEN HE CONFRONTED THE *TRI-SENTINEL* AT A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. THEN, THE POWER DEPARTED.

THE UNI-POWER CRAVED THE EMOTIONS AND POWER IT HAD SHARED WITH PETER PARKER, BUT RESISTED THE URGE TO LINGER.

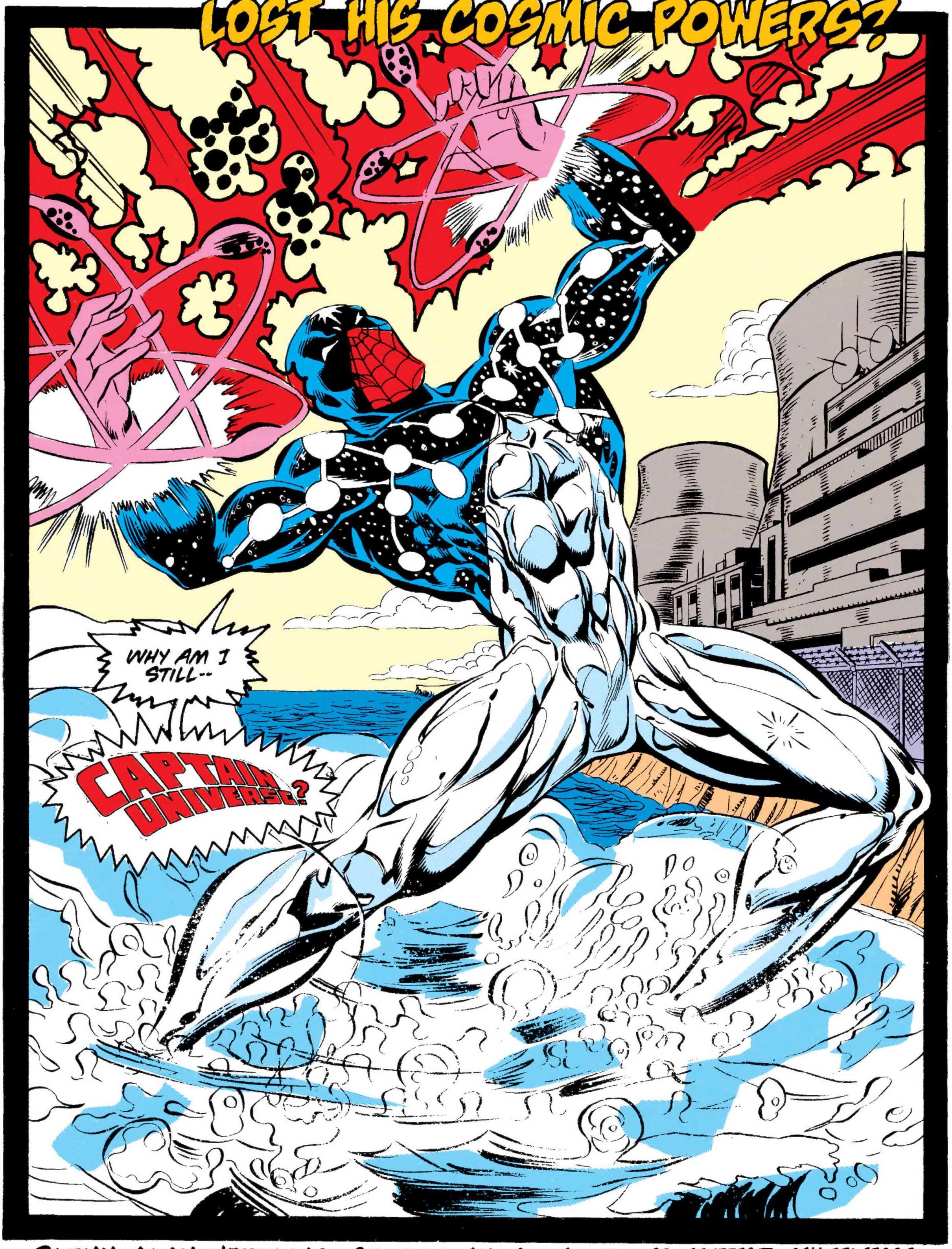
IT HAS SINCE SOUGHT BEINGS OF *LESSER* PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SUCH AS CHILDREN AND ANIMALS.

WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE *POTENTIAL* THE UNI-POWER WOULD HAVE ACHIEVED WITH SUCH A POWERFUL, INTELLIGENT HOST.

AT LEAST NOT IN *YOUR* REALITY...!

Stan Lee PRESENTS:

WHAT IF SPIDER-MAN HAD NOT LOST HIS COSMIC POWERS?



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AFTER BROODING FOR THREE HOURS IN THE COOLANT LAKE, THE ONE-TIME WEB-SWINGER **FLIES** BACK TO MANHATTAN.

THAT'S **GOTTA** BE THE ANSWER--IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT MAKES *SENSE.*

MARY JANE? I'M HOME!

:Gasp!: PETER, IS THAT *YOU?*

YEAH, IT'S ME--

--I THINK.

PETER-- YOUR *EYES!*

A LENGTHY EXPLANATION FOLLOWS, THEN...

... SO YOU SEE, I THINK THE UNI-POWER STAYED WITH ME BECAUSE IT'S NEVER ENCOUNTERED ANYONE WITH A GREATER SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY.

AT FIRST I RESENTED IT, BUT NOW I'M KINDA FLATTERED. I'VE NEVER FELT MORE IMPORTANT, MORE *POWERFUL*, MORE--

--KINKY!!

UM, PETER-- THIS IS... I HAVEN'T... YOU HAVE TO...

"OH, PETER."

COME HERE, MRS. SPIDER-MAN.

DAYS LATER, SPIDER-MAN EXERCISES HIS NEW ABILITIES AGAINST THE COSMIC SHE-PIRATE, NEBULA, WHO HAD ABSORBED A NEAR-INFINITE ENERGY SOURCE.

METHINKS THIS NEW SPIDER-MAN BEARS FURTHER SCRUTINY. WHAT SAYEST THOU, CAPTAIN?

I CAN'T HELP THINKING OF LORD ACTON'S FAMOUS QUOTE--

--"POWER TENDS TO CORRUPT, AND ABSOLUTE POWER CORRUPTS ABSOLUTELY."

THE WALL-CRAWLER SINGLEHANDEDLY BRINGS A QUICK END TO A POTENTIALLY LONG, DRAWN-OUT BATTLE FOR THE AVENGERS.

LATER...

I HAVE THE *POWER* TO KILL YOU, ROBERTSON!

JOE-- WHO IS IT?

THE NAME, MY DEAR, IS *HOBGOBLIN!*

BUT YOU CAN CALL ME--

-- SPIDER-MAN?

FOOL! YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY UNACCUSTOMED TO *FLIGHT.*

SEE HOW *EASILY* I PLUCK YOU FROM THE SKY?

SORRY, HOBBY, THE NAME'S ALREADY TAKEN.

BY MY *BOOTS*, TO BOOT!

Use PLANTAGENETIC blades

FUN AS IT'S BEEN, WALL-CRAWLER-- -- I'VE GOT AN *EXECUTION CONTRACT* TO FULFILL.

THWOPP!

NNOOO!

USE ANTAGENETIC Blades

THIS GUY'S BIGGEST PROBLEM IS THAT SOME DEMON TURNED HIS FACE INTO SOMETHING OUT OF A JOHN CARPENTER FLICK.*

*SPIDEY IS UNAWARE THAT DR. STRANGE CAST A SPELL MAKING THE HOBGOBLIN *BELIEVE* HIS FACE IS NORMAL.

THEN YOU WON'T MIND IF I GIVE YOU A *HAND?*

I'M NO ARTIST, BUT MOLDING ORGANIC MOLECULES OF FLESH CAN'T BE ANY MORE DIFFICULT THAN REDESIGNING MJ'S WARDROBE.

--SO I'LL JUST *WING* IT!

NO! STAY AWAY FROM MY *FACE!* NOOOO!

I'VE NEVER SEEN HOBBY'S TRUE FACE--

BUT THE BILLBOARD MIRROR REFLECTS NAUGHT BUT A *DEMON* STARING BACK AT HOBGOBLIN...

CURSE YOU, WALL-CRAWLER! I'LL *KILL* YOU FOR THIS!

UH-OH.

WHAT? WHAT HAVE YOU *DONE?*

I'VE TURNED HIM INTO AN EXACT REPLICA OF...

"...MYSELF"

HEY!

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS *THAT* UGLY!

LATER, UPON LEAVING JOE ROBERTSON'S PARTY...

HEY, PRETTY LADY! HOW ABOUT A LIFT? AND I *DO* MEAN SKY-HIGH!

ARE YOU *KIDDING*, PETER? I WAS SCARED GUTLESS WHEN YOU DID IT WITH *WEBS!*

THAT WAS A NOBLE THING YOU TRIED TO DO FOR HOBGOBLIN. BEFORE, YOU WOULD HAVE JUST *PUMMELED* HIS FACE.

WHEN THE ENIGMA FORCE MADE ME ITS *CHAMPION*, IT DISCOVERED MY SENSE OF OBLIGATION WAS *COMPATIBLE* WITH ITS MISSION OF PEACE--

--SO IT NO LONGER HAS TO PLAY *LEAPFROG* FROM PERSON TO PERSON,

SPIDER-MAN COULD ONLY DO *SO MUCH*, BATTLING STREET THUGS AND ENEMIES BENT ON REVENGE...

...BUT WITH THE CAPTAIN UNIVERSE POWERS, CHANGING THE WORLD WON'T BE MUCH HARDER THAN PULLING A RABBIT FROM A CAN!

CAREFUL, TIGER. THE WORLD MAY NOT *WANT* TO BE CHANGED. TRY SAVING THE WHOLE PLANET AND YOU MAY WIND UP *LOSING* YOURSELF.

CHIN UP, BEAUTIFUL. THIS IS STILL *PETER* YOU'RE TALKING TO--THE MAN YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH. THE ENIGMA FORCE IS ENHANCING MY IDENTITY--

--NOT *CONSUMING* IT, LIKE THE *ALIEN COSTUME* TRIED TO DO!

CENTRAL PARK, DAYS LATER...

OKAY, I'M HERE. SO WHERE'S VENOM?

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT THAT BLACK-AND-WHITE COSTUME A MILE AWAY--

...WHERE SPIDER-MAN HAS ACCEPTED A CHALLENGE FROM HIS MOST DEADLY ENEMY.

WELL-WELL, IF IT ISN'T A LITTLE FLYING SPIDER!

SORRY, PETE, BUT THIS WORLD'S ONLY BIG ENOUGH FOR ONE SPIDER-GUY--

BWAM

--AND THAT'S GOING TO BE ME!

...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY UNI-VISION!

HEY-- NO FAIR!

NUTS! PARK'S FULL OF PEOPLE! GOT TO MOVE THIS INTO THE WOODS...

EDDIE BROCK WAS A JOURNALIST WHOSE CAREER I INADVERTENTLY *RUINED* WHEN I BROKE A CASE THAT LIBELED HIS BIGGEST EXCLUSIVE!

WHEN HE MELDED WITH THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE THAT WAS ONCE MY COSTUME, VENOM FOCUSED HIS RAGE ON *ME*!

WORSE YET, THE ALIEN CAN SOMEHOW CANCEL OUT MY EARLY-WARNING *SPIDER-SENSE*!

LIKE SO...!

:Ghlk: F-FLOWING OVER MY HEAD! SQUEEZING TIGHT!

C-CAN'T *BREATHE*! :Choke!:

PLAY PERIOD'S OVER, SPIDER-FLY! NOW IT'S TIME FOR...

EH? WHAT'S WRONG?

MY ALLY IS RECOILING! CAN'T CONTROL--

ENOUGH, BROCK! WHILE YOU WERE MUTTERING TO YOURSELF, I TOOK US ON A LITTLE TRIP!

DO YOU SEE HOW *BIG* THE EARTH IS BENEATH YOU?

THAT'S THE *PLANET* I'VE SWORN TO PROTECT.

:EEP!:

DO YOU SEE HOW *SMALL* YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN?

THE AIR IS ALMOST TOO THIN TO BREATHE. VENOM PANICS WHEN HE STARTS TO SUCK VACUUM.

FROST REPLACES THE HEAT THAT DRAINS FROM THE ALIEN'S BODY.

DESPITE SUCH OBSTACLES, EDDIE BROCK VOICES A MEEK SURRENDER...

UNCLE!

AND SO...

Y-YOU'VE WON, "SPIDER-MAN." BUT MY CRUSADE WAS *OVER* WHEN MY ALIEN COMRADE TOUCHED YOU AND FOUND *BARELY* A TRACE OF THE MAN SHE ONCE KNEW.

WHA--?

LISTEN, BROCK. IF YOU THINK YOU CAN *REPLACE* ME AS SPIDER-MAN, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO *PROVE* IT!

THE CITY NEEDS A PROTECTOR WITH YOUR ABILITIES, AND I'VE GOT *BIGGER* FISH TO FRY!

NICE SPEECH. I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.

OLD RIVALRIES ARE SHATTERED, BUT NEW ONES FORGED. CONSIDER...

...THE *HOBGOBLIN* CONFRONTING A BEING WHOSE POWERS AND APPEARANCE ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF HIS HATED FOE...

...AND *VENOM* ENCOUNTERING A VILLAIN WHOSE FACE IS IDENTICAL TO THE MAN HE BLAMES FOR HIS UNDOING.

LET THE CRIMINAL ELEMENT BEWARE-- VENOM'S BRAND OF JUSTICE WILL NOT BE AS MERCIFUL AS SPIDER-MAN'S.

DURING THE WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, SPIDER-MAN'S ATTENTION INDEED TURNS TOWARD GLOBAL AFFAIRS...

ROXON

...CLEANSING MANKIND'S CARELESS EXPLOITATION OF THE SEA...

...PURGING COMMUNITIES OF THEIR TOXIC LANDFILLS...

...AND SHARING HIS SERVICES WITH ALL THOSE WHO NEED HIM...

RRRUMB

...EXCEPT ONE.

DAYS LATER, IN FOREST HILLS, QUEENS...

GREAT SEAFOOD NEWBURG, AUNT MAY!

HUSH, PETER.

I KNOW IT'S *NOT* YOUR FAVORITE, BUT I'VE GOT TO KEEP YOU STRONG AND HEALTHY. I SO SELDOM GET TO *SEE* YOU ANYMORE.

YOU AND ME BOTH, AUNT MAY!

WORLD'S GREATEST AUNT

YOU'D CERTAINLY BE MORE POPULAR *NOW* IF YOU'D TAKE OFF THOSE RIDICULOUS *SUNGLASSES*. THEY MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A *RUFFIAN*.

I WISH I'D *ALWAYS* BEEN SO POPULAR WITH GIRLS LIKE YOU.

ER, THERE WAS THIS *ACCIDENT* IN THE SCHOOL LAB. I HAVE TO WEAR THESE UNTIL THE DOCTOR SAYS MY EYES ARE OKAY.

OH, DEAR. LET'S HAVE A LOOK...

NO, AUNT MAY-- *DON'T!* I--

ERSIAN G
AR IMMINENT

AAARRGH! SPIDER-SENSE! ALERTING ME TO *DANGER!* MUST FOLLOW ITS SIGNAL--

--AS *CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!*

OH, MY *LORD*--

AUNT MAY! PETER!

MARY JANE'S PLEA GOES UNHEEDED, AND MOMENTS LATER, SPIDER-MAN SOARS OVER THE PERSIAN GULF.

HE DESCENDS UPON A SCENE A CHILD MIGHT DESCRIBE AS THE ULTIMATE FOURTH OF JULY. BUT THIS IS NO DAY OF CELEBRATION...

I'M TOO LATE! THE WAR'S ALREADY BEGUN!

BUT, BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, I'M GOING TO END IT...WITHOUT ANY BLOODSHED--

--ON EITHER SIDE!

USING HIS INCREDIBLE UNI-VISION, SPIDER-MAN UNEARTHS HIDDEN ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPONS AND SCUD MISSILE LAUNCHERS...

...WITH EXPLOSIVE RESULTS.

WITHIN HOURS, THE COSMIC WEB-SPINNER STORMS THE OCCUPIED TERRITORY AND LIBERATES IT.

THIS IS ALMOST *TOO* EASY. NOT ONLY ARE THE *REBELS* PRAISING ME...

...BUT THE *INVADERS* SEEM RELIEVED AS WELL!

EXTENDING HIS VISION, SPIDER-MAN OBSERVES THE DICTATOR'S CRIMES...

...ADOLESCENTS WITH EXTRACTED FINGER-NAILS AND GOUGED EYES...

...WILDLIFE THREATENED BY THE INFERNO OF AN OIL-LADEN GULF.

...TORTURED CHILDREN...

ENOUGH!

ONE MAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATROCITY! A *MADMAN* WHO THINKS HE'S SAFELY HIDDEN!

I'LL SHOW HIM HOW MUCH *DAMAGE* ONE MAN CAN ACTUALLY CAUSE!

VROOSH

SO SWEARS *CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!*

I MUST BE GETTING CLOSE. THIS IS THE MOST RESISTANCE I'VE MET.

A-HA!

"UNI-VISION, I LOVE YOU."

SKRASH

GIVE IT UP, TYRANT!

BY ALLAH!

KILL HIM, MY REPUBLICAN GUARD!

<WITH OUR BLOOD AND SOULS, WE SACRIFICE OURSELVES FOR YOU!>

"REPUBLICAN GUARD"? WHAT A CROCK!

A FEW MENTALLY CONTROLLED WEB-LINES WILL ENSURE YOU SACRIFICE NOTHING!

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

THWIP

I GIVE UP! I DID NOTHING! IT WAS ALL A BIG MISTAKE, YES?

IT'S PROBABLY A "BIG MISTAKE" THAT I DON'T PUNCH YOUR LIGHTS OUT. I'LL REGRET TAKING YOU TO THE U.N.'S INTERNATIONAL COURT--

--ESPECIALLY IF THEY SEND YOU TO A PRISON AS COZY AS THIS HOME-AWAY-FROM-HOME!

BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE...

PETER PARKER, I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW *IRRESPONSIBLY* YOU BEHAVED!

YOUR AUNT IS IN A HOSPITAL, RECOVERING FROM A *NERVOUS COLLAPSE* THAT YOU CAUSED.

MY HEIGHTENED SPIDER-SENSE DETECTED DANGER IN THE MID-EAST. I INSTINCTIVELY FOLLOWED IT--

--JUST AS THE ENIGMA FORCE USED TO DO.

PETER-- *LISTEN* TO YOURSELF! SO COLD AND ANALYTICAL.

WHEN I *MARRIED* YOU, I CAME TO TERMS WITH YOU BEING SPIDER-MAN. AT LEAST SPIDER-MAN WAS *STILL* PETER PARKER. BUT THIS--!

YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH *GLOBAL* RESPONSIBILITY! WHAT ABOUT RESPONSI-BILITY TO *YOURSELF?*

WHEN DO YOU GET A CHANCE TO LIVE YOUR *OWN* LIFE?

I THOUGHT I WAS THROUGH RUNNING AWAY, BUT I DON'T BELONG HERE ANYMORE. YOU'RE *BEYOND* ME! EVEN MAKING LOVE WITH YOU FEELS *WRONG*--LIKE YOU'RE SOME SORT OF A..."*GOD.*"

I'LL BE AT MY SISTER'S PLEASE-- *DON'T* FOLLOW ME.

GOODBYE, PETER. I'M SORRY.

MARY JANE...

"...GOD?"

THAT'S *IT!*

WHOOSH!

I-IT'S OVER. HE-- HE DIDN'T EVEN *TRY* TO STOP ME!

THUS SPIDER-MAN FAILS TO NOTICE THE SOFT SOBBING OUTSIDE HIS APARTMENT...

AVENGERS MANSION...

BREEP BREEP

...WHERE TWO OCCUPANTS ARE SUDDENLY ALERTED BY AN INTRUDER ALARM...

WHAT DOST THOU MAKE OF IT, CAPTAIN?

I'M AFRAID TO GUESS.

KRAKOOM

SPIDER-MAN! HOW DID--?!

THOR!

UNHAND ME, MORTAL!

I NEED YOUR POWER, THUNDER GOD, TO SAVE THE WORLD!

NOW HOLD ON THERE, SON...

NO TIME FOR PATRONIZING, CAP,

HOOSH

THWIP

HE WEBBED MY ARMS AS I THREW MY SHIELD!

CAN'T GRAB IT UPON ITS RETUR--

NNG!

THOR, THIS CAN'T WAIT! THERE ARE 150 MILLION LIVES AT STAKE!

THE CAPTAIN IS UNHURT.

YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TRUE TO ME BEFORE, WEBBED ONE...

...SO LET US BE OFF!

SUDAN, AFRICA.

HERE WE ARE.

I'LL TRANSPORT RICH TOPSOIL TO REPLACE THE BRITTLE SOIL THAT'S BEEN SWEPT AWAY BY THE SAHARA...

...WHILE YOU MAKE IT *RAIN!*

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, WE GODS HAD TO STAGE OUR OWN *GOTTERDAMMERUNG* TO *FREE* HUMANITY FROM OUR ARBITRARY EXTERNAL FORCE AND ALLOW IT TO SEEK ITS *OWN* DESTINY.

ART THOU *MAD?!* I CANNOT!

IN OTHER WORDS, YOU'RE *COPPING OUT!*

IT'S AS CAPTAIN AMERICA FEARED. THE WEB-SLINGER WOULD NOT LISTEN TO REASON. HE KNOCKED ME INTO--

--ORBIT!?!

WHOK

WHAT KIND OF GOD WOULD TURN HIS *BACK* ON HIS PEOPLE?

HE DARED STRIKE THE SON OF *ODIN!*

HAVE AT THEE, INSANE ONE!

uh-oh.

FEEL THE BITE OF MJOLNIR'S TOOTH!

WHOULF!

WITH A SLIGHT VARIATION ON THE TRICK I USED AGAINST CAP, I CAN TURN THIS TO MY ADVANTAGE.

HOPE GOLDILOCKS WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION EARLIER.

CHOK

GUESS NOT!

NOW TO SUBDUE HIM WITH AN ENERGY BEAM...

ZZZZAP

WAIT A MINUTE! THAT'S NOT MY BLAST!

OF COURSE NOT, FOOL! ONLY ONE MAN POSSESSES ENOUGH POWER TO FELL THE MIGHTY THOR. AND THAT POWER BELONGS TO...

--DOCTOR DOOM!

THANK YOU, SPIDER-MAN, FOR ALLOWING ME TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTS OF MY *ABSORBA-SCANN*, WHICH CAN DRAW POWER FROM ANYONE IN THE VICINITY--

WHY, YOU LOUSY-- I SET THOR UP FOR YOU!

--INCLUDING YOURSELF!

:*Hrm*: I WOULD SUGGEST YOU *DO NOT* TRY THAT ACTION AGAIN, WALL-CRAWLER!

FOR IN YOUR HASTE, YOU FAILED TO NOTICE--

--I'VE BROUGHT A *HOSTAGE!*

RECOGNIZE HIM, *CAPTAIN UNIVERSE*? DO YOU REMEMBER WHY YOU ARE CALLED "CAPTAIN"? LET ME REFRESH YOUR MEMORY!

THIS IS *CAPTAIN RAY COFFIN*, THE EX-ASTRONAUT WHO *FIRST* WIELDED THE POWER OF CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

DURING THE *ACTS OF VENGEANCE* CAMPAIGN, I SEARCHED IN VAIN FOR THE SECRET OF YOUR NEW POWERS.

I THEN TRACED THE RESIDUAL POWER WHEREVER YOU HAD USED IT, WHICH LED ME *DIRECTLY* TO CAPTAIN COFFIN!

THROUGH COFFIN, I DETERMINED THAT THE *UNI-POWER* IS UNIVERSAL--IT BELONGS TO NO *ONE* INDIVIDUAL!

STUFF IT, DOC.

I KNOW YOU, SPIDER-MAN. YOUR CONCERN IS SPREAD TO THOSE WITH WHOM YOU SHARE MEANINGLESS EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENTS.

ALLOW THE ABSORBASCANN TO SIPHON THE ENIGMA FORCE FROM YOU, WEB-SLINGER, AND I WILL *SPARE* COFFIN'S LIFE.

AARRGH!

SNAP!

THAT MAY BE TRUE, DOOM, BUT I'M NOT JUST SPIDER-MAN ANYMORE. I'M CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

STAY BACK! I *WILL* KILL HIM!

FOOL.

NNOOO! YOU LET HIM DIE! JUST LIKE MY UNCLE BEN!

THE NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSE *OUTWEIGH* THE NEEDS OF THE INDIVIDUAL.

COFFIN UNDERSTOOD THAT.

GREAT POWER DEMANDS GREAT RESPONSIBILITY...

THWIP

...BUT YOU CAN'T LOSE SIGHT OF THE PERSON UPON WHOSE *MORALITY* IT'S BASED!

WITH ABSOLUTE POWER ONE MUST ASSUME *ABSOLUTE* RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE WORLD!

THE INDIVIDUALS YOU'D EXPECT ME TO *SACRIFICE* ARE THE ONES WHO MADE ME THE *HERO* I AM TODAY.

TREES *MUST* BE SACRIFICED TO SAVE A FOREST.

=Unh= YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE *DOOM!*

KNOOOO

AND IF *THAT'S* WHAT YOU'RE ASKING ME TO GIVE UP-- THEN YOU CAN GO FIND YOURSELF ANOTHER PATSY!

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT "PATSY" JUST HAPPENS TO BE...

I AM DOOM!

DOCTOR DOOM--CAPTAIN DOOM--WHAT DOES IT MATTER?! I HAVE THE POWER! THE POWER TO CONQUER ENTIRE GALAXIES!

THE POWER TO...

EH?

SOMETHING'S WRONG! I CAN'T HOLD IT! BUT I MUST! I AM DOOM!

UH-OH.

I'M CAPTAIN UNIVERSE AGAIN.

BUT THIS TIME I KNOW THE TRUTH!

I DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK AGAINST YOU, DOOM...

KA-THWAR-K

NO! THIS CAN'T BE! IT IS A LIE! I AM DOOM!

SORRY, DOOMSIE. YOU'RE JUST A ROBOT. THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T HOLD THE UNI-POWER.

:clik: DOES NOT COMPUTE :clik: ERROR :clik: DESTRUCT.

WHUMF

WHOOPS! GET BACK, BOYS!

CLUNGK

DOOM AND THOR WERE BOTH RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING--

THE UNI-POWER IS A FORCE IN WHICH HUMANITY MAY FIND ITS INDIVIDUALITY *AND* ITS COMMON BOND.

HERE GOES NOTHIN'!

THE ABSORBA-SCANN BATHES SPIDER-MAN'S *ENTIRE* BODY WITH ENERGY...

...CONVERTING IT FROM SOLID MATTER...

...INTO A *BLUE FLAME*--A LIVING FORM OF ENERGY.

THE BLUE FLAME STREAKS ACROSS THE WORLD AND ENGULFS EACH INDIVIDUAL IN A BLUE SHIMMER, LITERALLY JOINING THEIR SOULS.

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, IT MAKES ALL LIVING THINGS EQUAL!

EACH BEING CEASES TO EXIST AS AN INDIVIDUAL AS THEY MERGE INTO A SINGLE CONSCIOUSNESS, REACHING A GREATER LEVEL OF UNDERSTANDING.

THE PHYSICAL UNIVERSE MERGES WITH THE LIMITS OF THE IMAGINATION AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT,

ALL IS NOW ONE--IN CAPTAIN UNIVERSE!

EASY, LAD. LET ME HELP YOU.

THOR! YOU'RE ALL RIGHT! AND SO AM I! EXCEPT--

--MY--MY SPIDER-POWERS ARE *GONE!* CAPTAIN UNIVERSE NEEDED THEM TO CATALYZE HIS SELF-SACRIFICE. NOW I'M JUST AN *ORDINARY* HUMAN BEING!

AYE, HUMAN. BUT MUCH *MORE* THAN ORDINARY.

INDEED. ONLY THROUGH SPIDER-MAN'S HUMANITY COULD CAPTAIN UNIVERSE SACRIFICE HIMSELF FOR ALL LIVING CREATURES.

BUT, MY YOUNG WATCHERS, THE TALE DOES NOT END HERE!

"BEHOLD...!"

COLUMIA PRES HOSPITAL
EMERGE
MAIN
VISITORS

HERE'S YOUR BEAUTIFUL BABY GIRL, MRS. PARKER.

OH, PETER, SHE HAS YOUR FACE.

YEAH, BUT YOUR SMILE!

AND YOU-KNOW-WHOSE EYES!

FOR EVEN A UNIFIED WORLD WILL HAVE DANGERS IN NEED OF A CHAMPION...!